

CHINOOK ARCH

September 2022 Volume 4 Issue 7



ALBERTA FAMILY
HISTORIES SOCIETY

Monthly Meetings

This Month's Meeting Date:

Monday, September 12, 2022

LOCATION: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre
and Zoom

TIME: 7 to 9 pm

TOPIC: Less Used Websites

Upcoming Society Meetings

Monday, October 17, 2022

Topic: Canadian Halloween Traditions

Speaker: Kelly Southworth

Location: Zoom only meeting

Time: 7 pm

Monday, November 14, 2022

Topic: Alberta's Cornerstone:
Archaeological Adventures in
Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park

Speaker: Shari Pereyl, author

Location: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre & Zoom

Time: 7 pm

Monday, December 12, 2022

Topic: Member Sharing Event

Speaker: N/A

Location: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre & Zoom

Time: 7 pm

Monday, January 9, 2022

Topic: TBD

Speaker: TBD

Location: Bow Cliff Seniors Centre & Zoom

Time: 7 pm

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AFHS Member Benefits:

- Society events and activities
- Our member-exclusive email news bulletin *The Windsock* & newsletter *Chinook Arch*
- Full access to our Society's resources and library with lending privileges
- Opportunities to participate in our Special Interest Groups
- Gain new friends with similar research interests and have fun!

www.afhs.ab.ca/membership

President's Message

Marion Peterson

Here's a fun fact about myself: although I am the President of Alberta Family Histories Society, I do not have a single Albertan ancestor. So how did I end up joining an organization with this name?

For years, my life revolved around the activities of my children – as a school volunteer, Cub leader and District Commissioner for Girl Guides. Once they became teens, they sought independence, so I decided to look for an activity for myself.

I spied an advertisement for Family Roots 2004 in the newspaper. I thought *Alberta* Family Histories Society would be for those researching in *Alberta*, but the topics listed at the event were diverse. I attended the conference, browsed the displays, chatted with attendees and I was impressed. AFHS offered what I was looking for – education about how to research my family tree and interaction with others who shared my passion. Several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) applied to my areas of research. It became obvious that I didn't need to be searching for family roots only in Alberta. I joined the Society soon after.

For a whole year, I attended Society meetings and some Special Interest Group meetings. There always was a plea for volunteers, but I took my time and finally agreed to offer my assistance on the Program Committee. Since then, I've held a number of roles – Program Committee Chair, proof-reader, Ontario SIG Leader, Legacy SIG Leader, Society Archivist, library volunteer, Communications Director and more.

I think the best thing about volunteering has been the people I've met over the years. A close second is the skills that I've learned. If you had told me 20 years ago that I'd know how to set up a PA system or add content to a website, I would not have believed you!

So although I don't have any Albertan ancestors, AFHS has given me a place to learn, to socialize, to expand my skills and to grow in so many ways!

I'll be honest. I am taking a turn at being President for a year. I prefer to be in the background in a supporting role. My hope is that someone will soon come forward to be my Vice President and potentially move into the President position at the next AGM.

We're having a Strategic Planning Meeting on Saturday, October 29 from 9 am to noon (hybrid from the library). All members are welcome to attend. We'll be talking about the issues facing our Society and strategies to address these. We have some significant but achievable challenges to face. Details about the meeting will be sent to our members in a future *Windsock* email message. I am looking forward to learning your perspectives!



Ancestor Anecdotes

Weber to Webber: How My German Family Became "English" By Adding One Letter!

Jim Benedict

Surname changes in source documents are a headache for any serious family researcher. Must have been changed by an immigration officer or a careless census recorder, right? Somewhere down the line, some official person messed up a family name. But not always - my family line got renamed because of the Great War.

My mother's father was born in 1879 in Alsace, currently part of France, but at that time it was part of Germany. Emil Joseph Weber had eight siblings and grew up during tumultuous times. Alsace was a desirable region, with coal and industrial resources, and was a key battleground during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, which was won by the Prussians. The German occupation was very miserable, and so my family decided to emigrate to the promised land of Canada.

Emil found work in Western Canada as a grain trader and travelled as an agent through the region. He was a handsome lad with black curly hair, a wink in his eye and a European accent. What was not to love? My grandmother, "Sadie" Sarah Isabella Acheson of Rosenfeld, Manitoba, fell in love, and they married in 1909. Her mother set up the newlyweds with a hardware store in town.

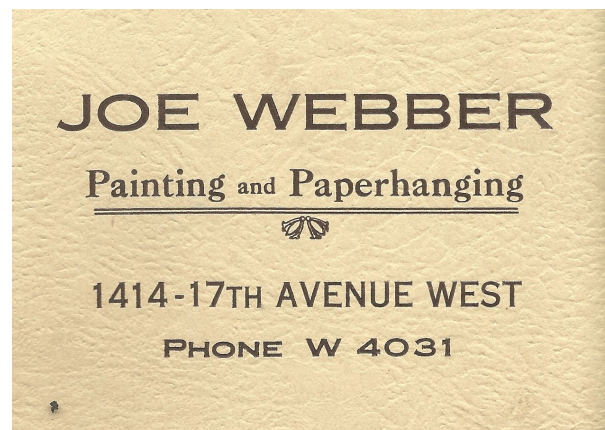
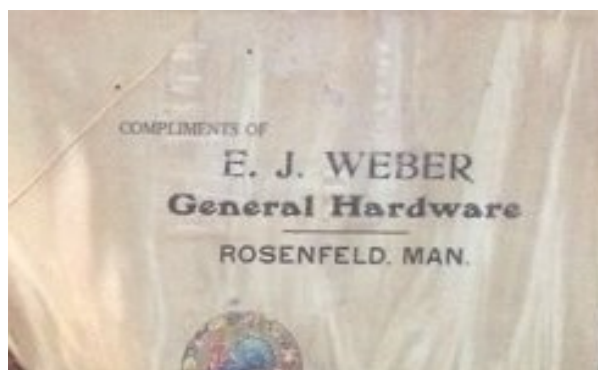
Business was tough at times, especially when Granddad went down to the local hotel bar to "liquidate" the cash register profits. So, the business was sold and my family relocated to Winnipeg for better opportunities. Granddad decided to get into the painting business. It was now the mid 10's, a war was going on over in Europe, and Germany was again the enemy. Emil's potential customers were reluctant because his surname was pronounced "VAY-burr" which sounded very German.

What to do? Grandma Sadie, being a resourceful woman, decided we would add an extra "B" in the surname, so we were now the family of *Webber* which sounds English. Emil starts calling himself Joe, for good measure, and business returns! The first three children were born with the surname Weber and the last five were born with the new surname Webber.

Photo 1. Poster for the Rosenfeld general hardware store, "E. J. Weber" as proprietor.

Photo 2. Wall calendar for the paint and paperhanging shop in Calgary, with his new name, "Joe Webber".

Photo 3. Granddad as a young man, you just might see that twinkle in his eyes!



Special Interest Groups

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) are the ideal place to share your family history. The small-group setting lets you exchange information and get suggestions on further avenues to pursue.

SIGs are now being held in multiple formats: in-person, Zoom only or a hybrid version (in-person & Zoom). Check the calendar on our website for up-to-date information or email the SIG leader.

If you are a new member and would like to attend a SIG meeting to try it out before joining, ask for an invitation from:
communications@afhs.ab.ca

CELTIC SIG (Irish/Scots)

Meets on the 4th Saturday
 10 am - Noon
celticsig@afhs.ab.ca

DIGITAL GENEALOGY SIG

Meets on the 2nd Saturday
 10 am - Noon
familygenes@afhs.ab.ca

ENGLISH/WELSH SIG

Meets on the 3rd Saturday
 10 am - Noon
englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca

FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG

Meets on the 1st Saturday
 10 am - Noon
ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca

LEGACY SIG

Meets on the 4th Sunday
 1:30 - 3:30 pm
legacysig@afhs.ab.ca

ONTARIO SIG

Meets on the 4th Monday
 1:30 - 3:30 pm
ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca

DNA SIG

On hiatus
(until a new leader is found)
dnasig@afhs.ab.ca

The SIG groups do not meet during the summer (July and August)

The AFHS Library is located at **712 - 16 Avenue NW, Calgary** and in-person SIG group meetings are held there.

The Library has over twelve thousand print items available and many are able to be borrowed for a one-month loan. Electronic resources include computers, a multi-function printer, scanners (flatbed and overhead), and a microfiche reader. Journals from around the world are available to view in-library in either print or digital formats. As a FamilySearch affiliate library, you view additional FamilySearch digital records at the AFHS library that aren't available elsewhere.

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

| DATE | GROUP | TIME/FORMAT | TOPIC |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 10 Sep 2022 Saturday | Digital Genealogy SIG/ Family Genes Group | 10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i> | Digital tips and tricks and information on updates to Family Genes |
| 17 Sep 2022 Saturday | English/Welsh SIG | 10 am to noon <i>Hybrid</i> | A time for members to share progress on English/Welsh research |
| 24 Sep 2022 Saturday | Celtic SIG | 10 am to noon <i>Zoom only</i> | Sharing interesting finds over the summer and suggestions for meeting topics |
| 25 Sep 2022 Sunday | Legacy SIG | 1:30 - 3:30 pm <i>Zoom only</i> | |
| 26 Sep 2022 Monday | Ontario SIG | 1:30 to 3:30 pm <i>Zoom only</i> | Proud to be Canadian, a look at Immigration and Naturalization Records |
| 1 Oct 2022 Saturday | Family Tree Maker SIG | 10 am to noon | Cancelled due to the AFHS Family Roots Conference |

Tech Tips

YouTube and Genealogy

Ron Gilmore

If you are a genealogist and don't use YouTube, it is time to start! This platform has an absolute bundle of videos on a variety of genealogical topics.

To get started, type "youtube.com" in your favourite browser address line. The YouTube website will appear and you can start searching and looking at videos right away. Type "genealogy" or "family history" into the search bar and see all the possible topics available. Some search results are:

- 10 little-known free genealogy websites professionals use
- Start your genealogy research right - avoid these common mistakes!
- Beginning and restarting genealogy research
- How to write a family history book
- Targaryen dragons timeline & family tree explained (for Game of Throne fans)
- Tracing your family history - how to get started

You will see some search results have a red SUBSCRIBE button beside them and these are "channels." Channels host many videos on a particular subject and usually add new content regularly. If you sign up for a free account on YouTube, you can subscribe and be notified when new content is added.

Other results have a picture on the left and a title and description on the right. If you want to watch the video, just click on the picture. In the bottom right corner of the video, you will see numbers in white and that tells you how long the video runs (e.g. 2:43 is two minutes, 43 seconds).

if you already have a Gmail address or Google account, you can click on the SIGN IN button at the top right of the YouTube website and enter your email address and password. That will sign you into your YouTube account. If you don't have a Google account, you click on SIGN IN, then Create Account, choose "For myself" and follow the directions to create an account.

On the left side of the screen, you will see buttons for Home, Explore, Shorts, Subscriptions, Library and History. These are quick ways to access channels you have subscribed to or see videos you have already viewed again. When you sign in to your YouTube account, near the top of the screen you will see a row of buttons with different subjects in them. This is YouTube showing you things it thinks you might like to view. Some examples of what it might show you are Ancestors, History, Ancestry, MyHeritage or Photographs.

Some great channels for genealogists on YouTube are:

- Ancestry
- BYU Family History Library
- FamilySearch
- Family Tree Magazine
- Genealogy Gems (Lisa Louise Cooke's channel)
- Genealogy with Amy Johnson Crow
- Library and Archives Canada

Be sure to add YouTube to your family history toolkit. When it is uncomfortable to go outside, maybe spend an hour or so wandering through the library of genealogy items. You never know what you might find!

Alberta Family Histories Society presents



Making Connections

AN IN-PERSON GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Crossroads Community Centre, Calgary



DAVE OBEE

Squiggly Lines and Spit:
How DNA is changing
family history research

The Geography of
Genealogy (Canadian
Research)

KIM ZJALIC

Preserving Your Photo
Legacy

JILL BROWNE

Planning Your Family
History Trip, Brick
Walls and All

\$65 (\$75 for non-members)

For more information and to register: www.afhs.ab.ca

Upcoming Events

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Virtual Family History Coaching *Calgary Public Library*

September 24, 2022 1:00 - 3:00 pm

October 22, 2022 1:00 - 3:00 pm

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/virtual-family-history-coaching>

Family Roots 2022 **Making Connections Conference**

Alberta Family Histories Society

October 1, 2022

<https://afhs.ab.ca/event/family-roots-2022-making-connections-conference>

CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

Kilted Kulture Conference: **Industry and Occupations**

Virtual conference

Kilted Kulture

September 10, 2022

www.genealogyvic.com

Scottish SIG Fall Symposium: **Enchanted by the Water**

Virtual conference

Ontario Genealogical Society's
Scottish Interest Group

October 1, 2022

<https://scottishsig.ogs.on.ca/calendar/fall-symposium-enchanted-by-the-water>

French Canadian Research

Virtual conference

Toronto Branch, Ontario
Genealogical Society

September 22 & 29, 2022 5:30 pm

<http://torontofamilyhistory.org/event/french-canadian>

Death Records by a Different Name

Virtual conference

Ontario Genealogical Society

October 6, 2022 5:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca/zoom-meetings/diane-richard-death-records-by-a-different-name>

BIFHSGO 2022 Virtual Conference

Virtual conference

British Isles Family History Society
of Greater Ottawa

September 28 - October 2, 2022

www.bifhsgo.ca/2022-BIFHSGO-Conference

**All times given are in Mountain Time

MORE ONLINE EVENT LISTINGS:

Conference Keeper:
www.conferencekeeper.org/virtual

Family Search:
www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

GENEVA (UK events):
<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/doku.php>

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have some time to spare? Alberta Family Histories Society is entirely run by volunteers, and we have tasks both big and small. Here are some of our current opportunities:

Our webmaster, Jim Benedict, is looking for volunteers to help with the indexing of the birth, marriage and death notices from the *Calgary Herald*. We need **someone to coordinate this project** as well as volunteers willing to do the indexing. If you live in Calgary, this could be done at home using the Calgary Public Library's *Calgary Herald* digital archive. Contact Jim at webmaster@afhs.ab.ca

Do you know how to edit videos or are you interested in learning? We would like another volunteer to assist with the videos that are uploaded to our Meeting Archive on the website. Contact Marion at communications@afhs.ab.ca

Do you have experience with grant-writing? We could use your help! Please contact Patricia, our Director of Finance at finance@afhs.ab.ca

We need a greeter! If you are willing to arrive at Society meetings early (6:30 pm) to welcome people as they arrive and watch for visitors and new members, please contact Marion at president@afhs.ab.ca

Do you like to take photos? We are looking for another person to take photographs at our meetings and events. Contact Marion at president@afhs.ab.ca

Casino volunteers are needed for our next casino fundraiser on Monday, February 20 & 21, 2023. Contact Dennis at casino@afhs.ab.ca

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Library Hours & Opportunities to Connect

Library Open Hours

Fall/Winter/Spring

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm
Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

*Check the website calendar for time changes or closures due to holidays or inclement weather.



Get in touch with us!

Email: info@afhs.ab.ca

Website: www.afhs.ab.ca

Phone: 403-214-1447

Facebook: Alberta Family Histories Society

Instagram:
[abfamilyhistoriessociety](https://www.instagram.com/abfamilyhistoriessociety)



AFHS Library & Office location:
712 - 16 Avenue NW Calgary

Chinook Arch

Watch for our newsletter distributed by email monthly, on the Saturday before AFHS meetings, from September to June. Paper copies are available at meetings and at the AFHS Library.

We are looking for short articles and copyright-free pictures. Favourite relatives, fond family memories, great research tips and tricks, new genealogy technology you love or any related topics are accepted.

Editor: Amber Godfrey

Email: chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca